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Demo Targets Goldcorp AGM

Chants Encounter with Greed

by Dawn Paley

VANCOUVER - An ebullient band of demonstrators broke the corporate routine of Vancouver's business district May 18, bursting into the streets with signs, whistles, props, baby carriages, bicycles, a 30-ft banner and a marching band in tow.

The occasion was Goldcorp's annual general meeting (AGM) at the Pan Pacific Hotel. Curious onlookers shot video, cops on bikes attended to disgruntled commuters, and the business set looked downright uncomfortable.

"We are here for a very important reason: everywhere lands are being stolen," said Kat Norris, a Coast Salish and Nez Perce woman. "This has been going on for hundreds of years, and I say shame!"



Kat Norris: "Shame!"

At least 200 people joined the demonstration. "It makes me feel that we're not alone," said Oliver Hernan, who is part of the National Resistance Front of Honduras and has been actively organizing against Goldcorp's presence in his home country.

"There are people [in Honduras] who have lost their land and their animals, and there's nobody who listens to them. There's no justice," said Hernan. "But the yells we hear here today are also coming from the people down there," he added.

After an hour under the cool morning sun, the group made a break towards the hotel. Chants along with the drums and brass of the marching band echoed up through the lobby and could be heard in the AGM meeting room.

"It was so amazing. It was just as (CEO) David Deisley got into his report on Corporate Social Responsibility: this huge cheer went up, and it was sustained all the way through his speech," said MiningWatch Canada's Jennifer Moore. For Carlos Amador, who lives in the Siria Valley in



Mining activists took their fight directly to Goldcorp inside the Pan Pacific Hotel. photos: murray bush

Honduras, it was a difficult morning. But his spirits were raised by the demonstration.

"To be in a shareholders meeting, it's really a big let down," he said. "The thinking of these people [is that] they don't really care that their operations are causing great damage in our community," he said.

"We told the shareholders that their investment is causing harm to us, and that we're all humans." At least, Amador added, some of the executives seemed frightened by the protests outside.

The Goldcorp AGM has been picketed or protested every year since the company acquired Glamis Gold in 2006. Glamis operated the Marlin Mine in Guatemala and San Martin mine in Honduras. he Inter-American Commission on Human Rights recommended that the Marlin Mine be closed last year because of its impacts on Mayan people. The

company has yet to comply with the IACHR.

This year's protest was the largest yet, with much of the momentum coming from student organizing and disgust at Goldcorp's \$10-million donation to SFU's arts school. From there, marchers continued on to Canada Pension Plan offices to draw attention to its investment in mining companies.

The next morning, a smaller crowd gathered in front of the AGM of First Majestic Silver, another Vancouver-based mining company with big plans for a region sacred to the Wixarika people, who live in Central Mexico.

"We're here to say the 22 concessions that the company has should be cancelled," said Juventino Carrillo de la Cruz. After some fuss, two Wixarika delegates were allowed into the meeting to address the shareholders.

A Tale of Two Perimeter Roads: Resistance wins in New West

by StopthePave

DELTA - Campers at the South Fraser Protection Camp packed up their belongings after two weeks of occupation and left the site May 5 under threat of an injunction, vowing to continue the resistance to freeway building in other ways.

Then the Gateway freeway megaproject suffered a major defeat when intense opposition from New Westminster residents led to the cancellation of the \$1-billion North Fraser Perimeter Road (NFPR).

Opponents took legal action to stop construction

of the \$1.2 billion South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR) freeway a week later. Bertha Williams of the Tsawwassen Band, Coast Salish Nation and William Burnstick, of the Cree Sioux First nations, are suing the B.C. Government to stop construction of the riverfront freeway through sacred burial sites.

At least six sites along the planned route have "significant scientific merit" and the Glenrose Cannery is among the most important sites in B.C. due to its age and unique specimens of ancient bone and antler tools. The neighbouring St. Mungo site contains human burials and shows evidence of three distinct cultural periods.



SFPR protection camp photo: Sandra Cuffe

Rounding up The Herd

(to fabricate planning policy)

Commentary

By Joseph Jones

VANCOUVER - Enhancing Community Plans is what Vancouver city planners call their recent invitation-only event - an assembly at the Creekside Community Centre in the Olympic Village. (Back in February, with only four days to go, planners pulled the plug on the same event, after months of preparation.)

Who was there and who was not was a function of who was asked to come and who managed to attend — or was willing to attend. Definitely not there: anyone from the Downtown Eastside, anyone from four (three east of Main, one west) of the nine community vision residential neighborhoods. The only Indigenous presence I could detect was someone from Aboriginal Community Policing. You start to get the idea already.

To the extent that the attendees could be controlled, a chart started off by assigning 74 persons to 12 tables, each managed by and reported back by a city staff person. A tightly-scripted agenda cycled participants through four sessions of theme discussion: Balancing, Engaging, Responding, Streamlining. (The end product, yet to come, and derived from what staff heard, will be a justification for what city planners have already decided to do. That's the drill.)

With respect to community planning, Engaging and Streamlining are fairly self-explanatory. Balancing referred to "global, regional and city-wide challenges with neighbourhood perspectives," and Responding was how the city can "manage development pressures during plan-making and following plan approval, and also address high expectations regarding local amenities."

Where did all of this come from? A lot traces back to a motion approved by City Council on last November requesting that city planning staff report on the implications of undertaking up to three additional neighbourhood planning processes, including potential impacts on finances, staffing, other ongoing planning processes, and/or changes to the process to develop the additional neighbourhood plans.

A favorite word in the facilitator's opening remarks was faster. She was referring to the Streamlining theme, and how the City can do up local communities with a plan in less time with less staff and less expenditure. And faster is how the workshop ran, with the four succeeding sessions scheduled to drop from 45 minutes to 30 to 25 to 20. A cute homology.

In the background, social brush fires are popping out all across residential Vancouver, mainly sparked by out-of-scale tower proposals aimed at Chinatown, Marpole Safeway, West End, Shannon Mews, Mount Pleasant, and Arbutus Village. The Norquay precursor to this radical transformation, 2300 Kingsway, is now under construction.

A major complaint is that unwanted tall towers often contravene decades-old local area plans. Heading up the current list for redo, in order, are Grandview Woodland, West End, and Marpole. If the latter two already face explicit multiple tower incursions, imagine what must lie in wait for Grandview Woodland!

The City likes to try to maintain a façade of respectability, so it wants to update the older plans. Lots of them, fast. Then it can latch onto, and distort where necessary, policy that justifies the rezoning frenzy.

Bottom line: Vancouver is broke. Olympic Village speculators want out. The fix? Simultaneously open up the entire city to speculator interests to juice up development fees and multiply property tax base. As the sell-out progresses, tune your ear to these keywords of misdirection: affordable, green, livable, sustainable.



Community members create a message on the walls of the old Pantages theatre.

DNC Paints a Clear Picture for Community

VANCOUVER - The Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council brought out brushes and breakfast to the once majestic Pantages Theatre. The shell of the historic building on East Hastings is to join its neighbours - which are being demolished.

The DNC says it fears the developer owner will use the massive site for condos in the heart of the Downtown Eastside. The owner tried to sell the property to the City but was turned down by the Vision Council. The DNC named the site as one of 10 the City should buy for social housing.

The DNC put the Pantages Theatre on our list for 100-per-cent social housing because it says:

1) Condos at the Pantages would be a gentrification bomb in the heart of the

Downtown Eastside neighbourhood.
2) The Pantages is part of the low-income community's historic claim to the DTES
3) Condos in the Pantages could set off condo development throughout the eastern DTES. Visit vancouver.mediacoop.ca for the full story.

Missing

NESKONLITH LAKE - An intensive search continues for missing Neskonlith Band Councillor Neskia Manuel.

"Searches by Secwepemc and local people with extensive knowledge of the surrounding areas will continue," said said Chief Judy Wilson (Neskonlith). The search has now been expanded to across North America.

If you have any information call the band office at 250-679-3295.

Spartacus Books (684 E Hastings) - Pick of the litter for June reading

The cycling paths get overcrowded with lycra suits again, we pick up the first radishes from our gardens and naked people come out of hibernation and crawl towards Wreck Beach. We stand behind counters to serve fresh ideas! Our picks for a good read:

Lucasville - The untold story of a prison uprising, By Staughton Lynd
Lynd brings the full power of evidence to bear as he retells the Lucasville story. He argues compellingly that the five men sentenced to death were unfairly convicted.

Post-Anarchism - A reader, By Duane Rousselle and Surreya Evran
A reader comprising texts from a wide body of authors including Alan Antliff (notorious Victoria writer) and Richard Day (known for *Gramsci is Dead*).

Creating a movement with teeth - A documentary history of the George Jackson Brigade, By Daniel Burton Rose
The George Jackson Brigade claimed 14 pipe bombings against corporate and state targets, as many bank robberies, and the daring rescue of a jailed member in the mid-1970s.